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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1943 | No. 12

Will add fresh laurels to India's fame

H.E. SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK

Now that Italy has collapsed, Indian troops continue to pursue the Nazi armies into Europe proper. Indian units are at present in Italy and have been in contact with the enemy. Operating in a difficult mountainous sector, they recently beat back the enemy in a series of encounters and were last reported as having reached the line of the Trigno river

This Indian formation is equipped with the latest weapons such as the 17-pounder gun. Its troops are imbued with the same spirit of elan in attack and fortitude in adversity which made their fellow-countrymen such fine fighting material in North Africa; they may be relied upon to add fresh laurels to their country's fame

H.E. Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, Commander-in-Chief, India, in the Council of State, on Monday (November 15)

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HEARTENING PATROL ASCENDANCY

"Indian and Gurkha troops with their British and Burman comrades had maintained a heartening patrol ascendancy over the enemy, while Gurkhas and Indian troops shared with others the dangers of the expedition into Central Burma, under the command of Brigadier Wingate. The monsoon prevented any large-scale ground offensive by either side, but it did not prevent the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. from keeping up the momentum of their attacks upon Japanese bases, and lines of supply. These harassing raids had undoubtedly had their effect in increasing the difficulties under which the enemy laboured. Nor did the monsoon prevent our troops from continuing their offensive patrolling in all weathers. This patrol ascendancy, which was still being maintained, is important from several points of view. It is good for the morale of our troops, since it enables them to know that they are man for man, more than a match for the enemy. It is helpful to us because it brings in information about enemy troop dispositions, and strength on various sectors of the front, while at the same time it denies such information to the enemy."

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, *Commander-in-Chief, India, surveying Burma Campaign on Monday (November 15).*

◆

EAGLE'S CLAWS GET SHARPER

"The Rising Sun is past its zenith, while the Eagle's claws get sharper, and Mrs. Eagle steadily hatches her eggs.

"The War will turn for Japan upon merchant shipping and air power. There are signs not only that her air-strength is declining numerically but that the cream of it has been knocked out, and the second team is now in.

"If she has to quit in the air, the task of beating her will be enormously simplified. It will not be impossible, without island-hopping, to carry out operations resulting in the acquisition of airfields from which an air attack upon Japan can be carried out by land-based machines."

LORD WINSTER *in a B.B.C. Broadcast on November* 12.

◆

BEGINNINGS OF A NEW VICTORY

"Our time has come to strike. Our northern flank in the Aleutians has been secured. In the South and South-west Pacific intensified attacks by all forces have placed the Japanese in a precarious position. In other areas, the enemy has been relatively unmolested but henceforth we propose to give him no rest anywhere. We see the beginnings of a new victory. We feel that victory is sure."

ADMIRAL CHESTER NIMITZ *declared in a recent radio address from Pearl Harbour.*

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ITALY: ROADS TO ROME

HITLER has ordered his troops in Italy to hold their "across Italy" winter line till January at all costs. Severe fighting is in progress to break the German resistance. But the weather has added to the difficulties of the Allied armies. *Reuter's* correspondent in Algiers says that General Alexander is now fighting his campaign over the worst imaginable battlefield and that his men are battling, along the whole 83-mile Italian Front, in rain and snowstorms against the Germans. As for the Eighth Army under the command of General Montgomery, its men are reported to be in heavy great-coats for the first time in that Army's history, to keep out the cold, the cold of snow and ice, and mud and slush, which is quite different from the dry cold of the desert nights in North Africa. The operations which were proceeding slowly on account of the mountainous nature of the battle-ground are being held up along the whole front due to bad weather.

THE lull in the Italian campaign gives us an opportunity to review the present position in the Battle for Rome. The move of the Allies is to encircle Cassino, the key town on the road to Rome, which the Germans are defending with all their might. Cassino is a hedgehog on the Appian Way road and railway to Rome, and the Germans are trying their best to dislodge General Mark Clark's American troops, which are a menace to it, to from the heights north of Venafro. On the Eighth Army's front British forces have pushed forward to level up the Allied line along the Sangro river by capturing Atessia, which is 12 miles inland from the Adriatic, after overcoming the very stiff resistance of the Germans.

"All Roads lead to Rome, but—"

NOW British and American troops are facing the toughest German defence positions they have encountered so far, since they landed on the Salerno beaches. There is no doubt that there is a great uphill task before them. General Alexander has referred to the difficult nature of the operations and warned that, because of the mountainous country, the campaign in future is likely to be a matter of "hard slogging." He said, "All roads lead to Rome, but unfortunately all these roads are mined and the bridges are blown up." Further, the roads are dominated by mountain-ridges held by a tenacious enemy. The campaign in Italy is thus not a swirling battle with fleets of tanks and self-propelled guns, but mostly desperate hand-to-hand encounters up and down the mountain ravines by infantry men who get their supplies over the mountain passes by mule trains.

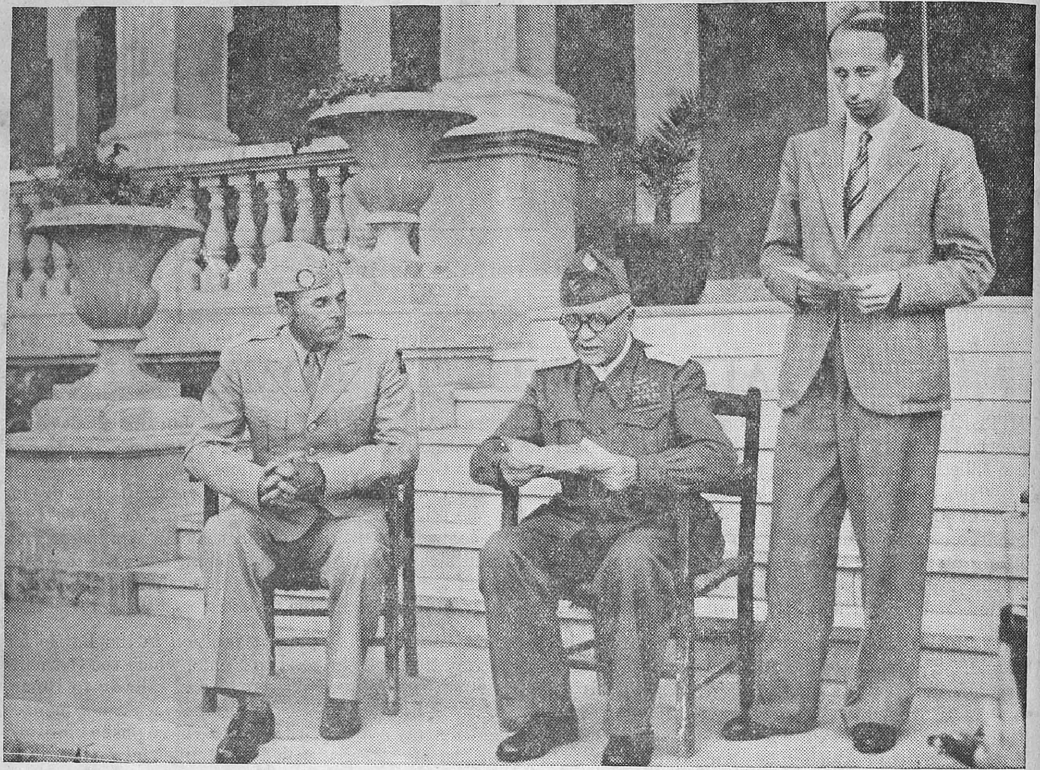
IT is evident that the advance towards Rome will have to be necessarily very slow, as the tangle of mountains, river and swamps 90 miles deep between the Allied forces and Rome has to be resolved. The capture of Isernia, the key point of the German defence line in the central region of the battle front, has helped in this process by depriving the Germans of the most vital centre of lateral communications and relieving the right flank of the Fifth Army. This has been followed up by the capture of Venafro, another vital hinge of the German defences in central Italy.

Four Parallel Lines

NOW there are roughly four principal geographical features all running roughly parallel to a line drawn between Isernia and Rome. Firstly, there are the Pontine marshes along the Tyrrhenian coast; then there are the Lepini mountains which are militarily only obstacles; the broad valley of the Via Latina is the third line to Rome, and lastly there is the great insurmountable massif of the Apennines. It is obvious that an advance on Rome through the Pontine marshes may not be undertaken as, apart from other considerations, they can be flooded. As regards the Via Latina valley, it has dominating mountains on both sides and must have mines and demolished bridges all the way to Rome, and it may be a protracted and costly business to undertake this route. The third alternative seems to be a fresh large-scale Allied landing well behind the enemy's battle front either on the Tyrrhenian coast or on the Adriatic side.

Germans' Desperate Anxiety to retrieve Lost Prestige

WHICHEVER road or roads to Rome may be used for the Allied thrusts, the Germans are bound to put up a very stiff resistance. They have got the advantage of the mountanous area and the weather. Further they are bringing down fresh divisions into Italy to reinforce those which have been badly battered by the Fifth and Eighth Armies. It is only to be expected that the Germans who have lost their military prestige not only on the Russian front, but also in the Battle of the Atlantic and the air war, would be desperately anxious to retrieve it at least in Italy. It may also be expected that the Germans may be preparing for a big counter-attack in Italy against the Allies. But they may succeed only in slowing down the advance of the Allied forces on Rome—for some time.



ITALY DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY.—Marshal Badoglio reading the declaration of war on Germany to United Nations War Correspondents at Brindisi, on October 13.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

"Lightning Vatutin" heading towards Polish Border

The Red Army under the leadership of General VATUTIN, now famous in Moscow as "Lightning Vatutin," has been forging ahead to the west towards the border of Poland. The hammerhead of the advancing Red Army is formed by tank columns and Cossack cavalry and they are descending on the Germans, according to front line despatches from the Russian Front, "like an avalanche," with sabre charges. The Nazi line in the Ukraine from the Dnieper bend to Byelaya Tserkov, south-west of Kiev, is on the verge of cracking. The German army's next hope in the south seems to be the eastern Bug river. But, says *Reuter's* Correspondent in Moscow, "the Red Army has learned to laugh at rivers."

Commenting on the present position, Colonel ERNEST VON HAMMER, the Military Correspondent of the German News Agency, says that Soviet artillery displayed extensive activity along the Smolensk-Orsha motor road, which "justifies the assumption that the Soviet Command intends to repeat once more a break-through attempt on the Dnieper-Dvina stretch." Previously, however, the Germans did not expect that the Red Army would break through their Dnieper defences. They thought they could hold the Lower Dnieper in the same successful manner as they held the bend of the Lower Donetz in the spring of last year. They then firmly held the far end of the bulge, in spite of the dangerous Russian thrust south of Kharkov into their left flank. They went further and mounted a powerful counter-offensive, eliminated the Russian salient, recaptured Kharkov and stabilized the Donetz position.

German High Command's Hope upset by Fall of Melitopol

This time also they thought they would be able to stage a similar achievement. So they retreated to the west bank of the Dnieper and took up their defensive position along the "Nogaisky Line" from the Zaporozhe due south to the sea. And it was with the utmost confidence that Goebbels ordered a general outburst of cheering and boasting both in the German press and the radio. There was a more or less uniform line of optimistic bragging which seems to have been released at a pre-arranged signal as it were. It is clear from this that the German High Command was very confident that they would be able to stabilize their position along the Dnieper-Nogaisky Line at least until the frost came, or perhaps even longer.

The fall of Melitopol, however, upset ther expectations. It made a wedge in the German defences covering the Nogaisky steppe and the overland route to the Crimea. The wedge was further widened to such an extent that the German position south of Zaporozhe fast deteriorated. And when the Cossacks rushed southwards into the Perekop Isthmus, the Germans in the Crimea were isolated from the mainland.

Now it seems that the critical battle may be centred around Krivoi-Rog where the Germans have massed a great force to resist the Russian advance southwards. This advance is likely to cut the railways from Znamenka to Nikolaiev, close the mouth of the Dnieper sack and entrap a large German army. If the Germans want to save themselves, they must very quickly launch a counter-offensive against the right flank of the

Sir Samuel Runganadhan, the High Commissioner for India, and Lady Runganadhan gave an " At Home " at India House to Viscount and Viscountess Wavell before their departure for India. A large number of Empire and Indian celebrities were invited to the Reception. Our photo shows *Viscountess Wavell chatting with Sir Samuel and Lady Runganadhan during the Reception.*

Russian salient, but the loss of Kiev, however, seems to show that the German counter-offensive has already become too late.

* * * * *

Russian Strategy—Moves for Offensive against the Crimea. A special feature of Russian strategy is the development of a series of moves supplementary to each other and designed to make still more assured the attainment of a particular objective. This is clearly evident from what has recently been happening in the southern Russian front. The violent Russian thrusts west of Nevel in the north and of Kiev in the centre, and the landings of Soviet troops north-east and south of the town of Kerch are intended for a great assault on the eastern gate of the Crimea. The Germans are situated in a critical position, and they know this well too. For the Crimean peninsula is now cut off from the mainland, and if the Red Army supplements its eastern drive by a southward thrust through the Perekop Isthmus, the Germans will be enclosed in the grip of a deadly pincer movement. The inferiority of the German position has been admitted by HEINZ MEGERLIN, a German war reporter, in a broadcast from the Berlin radio on November 1. He said, " A German pancer group starts a counter-attack and bangs into a group of big Soviet tanks three times its own size. It is a struggle against immense superiority in numbers and material. Day after day, our troops have to fling themselves against the superior ememy—they hate it ! "

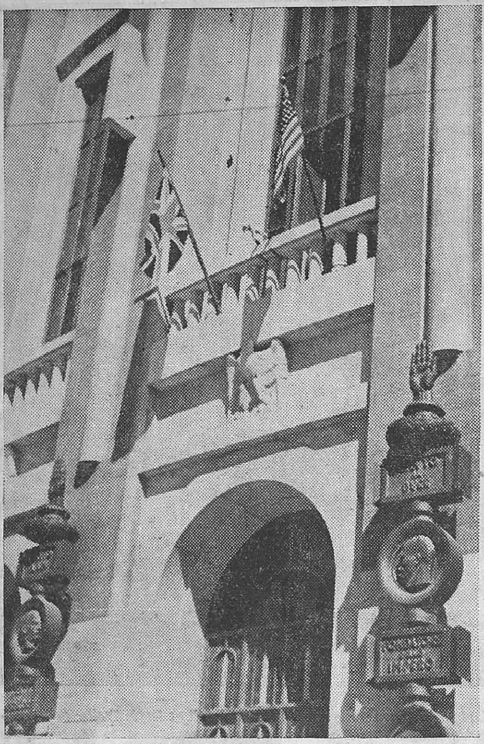
* * * * *

Moscow Decision on Austria—Austro-German Political Antagonism. One of the decisions of the Moscow Conference is to liberate Austria, HITLER's first victim. This is in keeping with the pledge given by Allied leaders. For it may be recalled that Mr. CHURCHILL gave an assurance to Austrians in Britain on February 18, 1942, that " the people of Britain will never desert the cause of the freedom of Austria from the Prussian yoke."

But it may be asked whether Austria should not rightly be an integral part of Germany because Austrians speak the German language. But this would be overlooking past history. The history of Austria from the earliest times, her position in the Holy Roman Empire, her wars with Prussia in the 18th and 19th centuries, the mutual relationship between the Austrians and the people of the Danubian states, and Austria's struggle with Hitlerite Germany from 1933 to 1938—all these show Austria's age-long antagonism towards Germany. The Holy Roman Empire was ruled by the Hapsburgs of Austria and it was a Christian, not a Germanic, Empire. Austria had a long and bitter conflict with Prussia, but for a short period it came under Prussian influence in the loose German Confederation of 1815 to 1866. Austria was expelled from the Confederation because Bismark wanted to found a new German state under Prussian leadership. In 1866, Austria was defeated by Prussia at the Battle of Sadowa. Though in the last Great War, Austria fought on the side of Germany, many Austrians disapproved of the policy of their Foreign Minister and predicted that it would bring about the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And their prediction came true. So far for the political aspect of the Austrian problem.

* * * * *

Cultural Differences between Austria and Germany. As regards the cultural aspect, it may be pointed out that, during the first four centuries of the Christian era, Austria was an integral part, with France and England, of the Roman Empire, and underwent the formative influence of the great cultural force of the Roman Empire in a way which Germany east of the Rhine never did. Relationships with Danubian states had also left their mark on the life and outlook of the Austrian people. This influence is so marked that even to-day it helps to emphasize the essential differences which exist between the Austrians and the Germans.



Once the Fascist Headquarters at Taranto, now the flags of the United Nations fly above the building.

If we understand this historical and cultural antagonism between Austria and Germany, her clash with the Hitlerite regime will easily become intelligible. Austrian Democrats viewed with abhorrence HITLER's destruction of the Social Democratic Party and the trade union movement of Germany. Austrian catholics had no faith in HITLER's pledges given to German Catholics in the Concordat of 1943. The Austrian people as a whole were horror-stricken at the nature and extent of the persecution of the Jews, and the brutalities of HITLER's totalitarian regime. Perhaps nothing demonstrates more strikingly the fact of the smallness of the hold which the Nazis had in Austria than the failure of HITLER's attempted *Putsch* in 1934. Two years later, HITLER signed an agreement with Austria by which he "recognized the full sovereignty of Austria, including the question of National Socialism in Austria, which (was) to be regarded as exclusively an Austrian question, in which the German Government (promised) to exert no influence either directly or indirectly." This agreement was treated as a scrap of paper. It was one of the earliest examples of Nazi treachery, which was tried in succession on most of the smaller states of Europe.

* * * * *

The Austrian Plebiscite of 1938 and Hitler's Anschluss—Sir Austen Chamberlain's Prophecy.

The very fact that a plebiscite on the issue of the Independence of Austria which was scheduled for March 13, 1938, was not allowed to be held by HITLER shows that an overwhelming majority of the Austrian people must have been against their country being annexed by Germany. Knowing that such a plebiscite would be against him, HITLER staged his dramatic *coup* and annexed Austria by military force two days earlier. A month after (April 10), HITLER held a plebiscite throughout Greater Germany for the ratification of his *Anschluss*. He got a 99 per cent vote in Old Germany. So far as Austria was concerned, it was under compulsion and awe and fear of HITLER's minions that a majority voted for him. Before the plebiscite was held, all the Jews were disenfranchised. As regards Socialists, Communists and Catholics, they had no other go except to vote "yes" in the presence of the German troops and police.

It was by such and similar means that Austria became the first victim of HITLER and thereby ceased to exist as an independent sovereign state. HITLER pounced on Austria first, because of its key position in Central Europe. Referring to this Sir AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said in 1936, with prophetic foresight and vision, "If Austria perishes, Czechoslovakia becomes indefensible. Then the whole of the Balkans will be subjected to a gigantic new influence. Then the old German dream of a Central Europe ruled by, and subjected to, Berlin becomes a reality from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea . . ." And this has in fact happened! What the Moscow Conference has sought to do is to lay down a principle which will prevent the repetition of this process of German history once over again. By setting up a free independent, and strong Austria as something like a buffer state in Central Europe, the Allies will be preventing the rise of the menace of a new aggressive Germany for all time.

The ATS private had gone for a walk in the country near her camp. It was a hot day, so when she came to a pool a little off the road and surrounded by trees, she decided to have a dip.

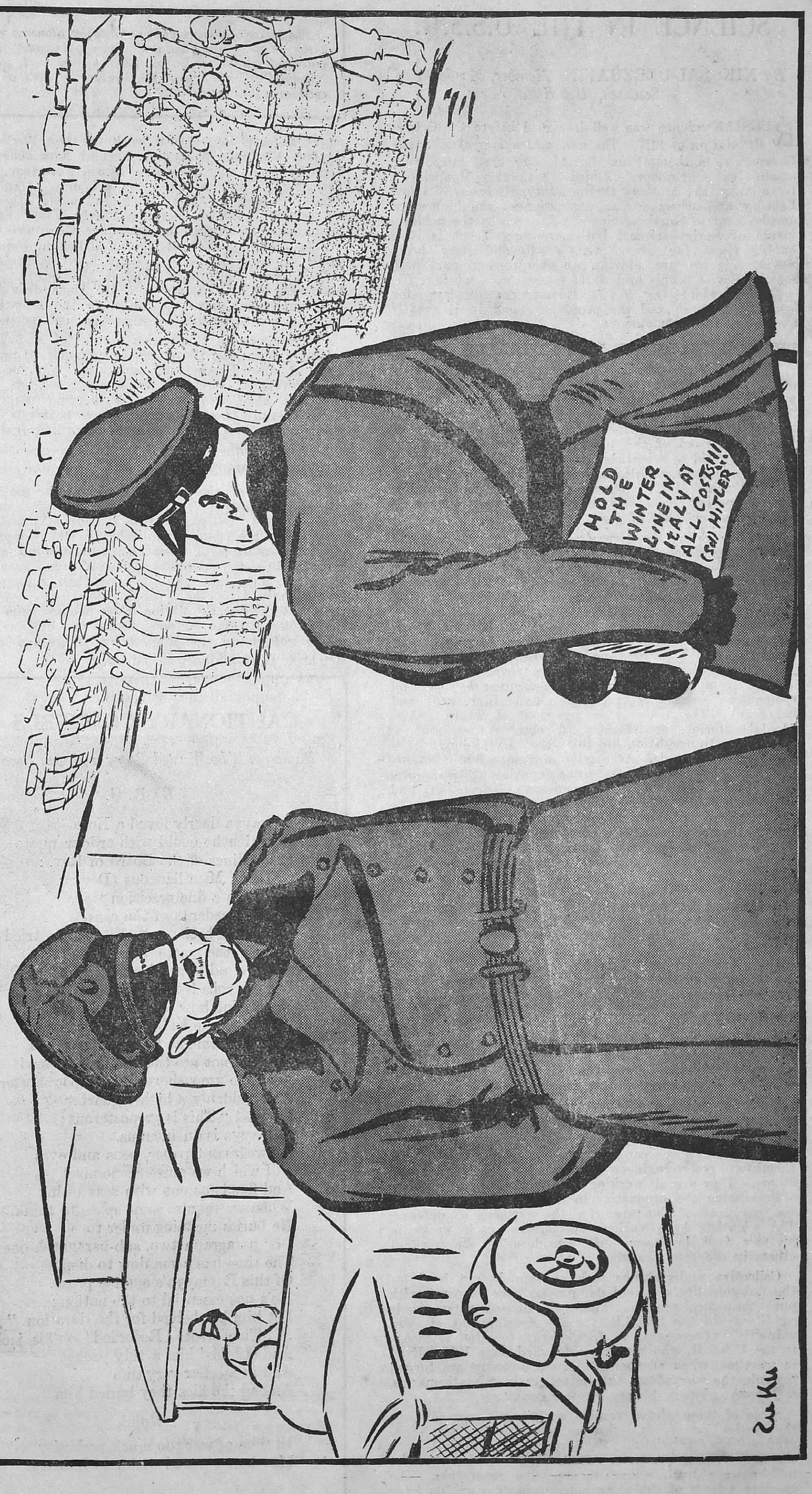
She folded her clothes on the bank and jumped in, swam around for a while, and then scrambled out.

As she did so, she saw an Army officer approaching and hid behind one of the trees. He came nearer and nearer, and suddenly called out:

"Camouflage platoon, dismiss!"

Whereupon all the trees walked away!

UNITED STATES WOMEN MARINES RIG PARACHUTES.—Loose ends of the parachute harness and shroud lines are dipped into hot wax to prevent fraying by this woman member of the United States Marine Corps attending a parachute rigging and maintenance school at a United States Atlantic Coast Naval Air Base.



"With respect, the Herr General may consider whether it would not be cheaper to shift the line to the Brenner."

". . . So you see, those who retire will have to be shot"

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

SCIENCE IN THE U.S.S.R.

By NIKOLAI DERZHAVIN, *Member, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.*

The author of this article is a philologist, Slavonic scholar; historian of literature and well-known pedagogue. He has published many works on Slav history and philology. Nikolai Derzhavin exposed the German invaders as age-old enemies of the Slav peoples.

RUSSIAN science was well-developed before the October Revolution of 1917. The names of universal scientists, Lomonosov, mathematician Lobachevsky and, later, such names as Chebyshev, Zinin, Butlerov, Mendeleyev, Kovalevsky, the brothers Ostrogradsky, Sechenov, Pavlov, Lebedev and others are an expression of the high stage development of Russian science. This marks the achievements of Soviet science, but more magnificent is it in having risen far above the pre-Revolutionary level. Soviet sciences are playing an evergrowing part both for the Soviet people and world science as a whole. The solicitude which the Soviet Government displays for scientific research and the people engaged in it greatly facilitates this development.

THE REPUBLIC AND THE RESEARCH

The first years of the Soviet power were extremely difficult ones. Industry had been destroyed; agriculture was in decline and the country was starving. At this difficult time the solicitude of the Soviet Government for the scientific workers was very great. By the order of Lenin, the head of the Government, the Central Commission for Aid to Scientists was organized in order to give scientists the best conditions possible at that time. During the first years of its existence the young Soviet republic began creating new research institutes, the number of which increased year by year.

On the eve of the October Revolution, the Russian Academy of Science, the largest scientific body in the country, consisted of 45 members and only a few scientific workers. The Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., however, consists of three honorary members, 150 members, 216 corresponding members and employees about 5,000 workers. The Academy of Sciences, formerly consisting of three sections—(physicomathematical, Russian language and literature and historico-philological), now has eight sections—(physics and mathematics; chemistry; geology and geography; biology; technical sciences; history and philosophy; economics and law and literature and language). The Academy is composed of 76 institutes, 11 laboratories, 42 stations, 6 observatories and 42 museums. In addition to this, the Ukrainian, Belo-Russian and Georgian Academies of Sciences are important scientific bodies. In the union republics of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizia where before the Revolution there were no higher schools of any sort—there are now branches of the Academy of Sciences. Academies, covering special branches of science, the Lenin All-Union Agricultural Academy and Academy of Architecture, have been founded and the Academy of Pedagogues is in the process of formation.

The Soviet Government immediately drew scientists to the interesting task of the reconstruction of the country's economic and cultural life on a modern scientific basis. All further planning and building is done in accordance with scientific data. This has created that close connexion between theory and practice which is very beneficial to science.

"BRIGADE OF SCIENTISTS"

Another feature of Soviet science is a large number of collective works, that is jobs done or papers written by groups of scientists. The expression "Brigade of Scientists" is current in use in the U.S.S.R.

Since the war began, a commission under the guidance of Academician Komarov, President of the Academy, has been working in the Urals.

The commission consists of geologists, physicians, chemists, power-engineers, economists, botanists and others. They are all working on the one general problem of increasing the production in the Urals and mobilizing the resources of this area for the purposes of defence. The scientists have various specialities: each works in his own field, but takes into consideration the work of others in different branches of science.

Collective undertakings such as this do not level out the individuality of scientists, nor do they do away with pure theoretical science. There are unusually favourable conditions in the U.S.S.R. for the development of individuality. There are, in fact, many talented scientists in the U.S.S.R. who have come forward since 1917. Even in wartime, when all thoughts of our scientist are turned towards the war effort, theoretical work in mathematics, astronomy, physics, history etcetera continues.

Some of those whose creative work has developed under the Soviet power, are the mathematician, Ivan Vinogradov; the physicist, Vavilov and the world-famous chemist, Nikolai Semenov. Peter Kapitsa, the physicist well-known abroad, belongs to the same generation. The creative talents of the older generation of scientists have also developed considerably during the years of the Soviet power as seen in the new work of Ivan Pavlov, Alexei Krylov, Vladimir Komarov, Nikolai Kurnakov, Nikolai Zelinsky, Alexander Favorsky, Alexei Severtsov, Vladimir Vernadsky, Vladimir Obruchev, Leonid Mandelstamm, Nikolai Burdenko, Alesei Bach and many others of the old brigade. I have mentioned only a few among the best known scientists; for example, there are only two mathematicians amongst them, although the Russian school of mathematics is a large one. Alexander Alexandrov, Lev Pontryagin, Andrei Kolmogorov, Nikolai Luzin, Sergei Khristianovish, Pavel Alexandrov and many other mathematicians are known in the scientific world for their brilliant work which has assisted in the progress of science.

Geographers who have done so much to study the hitherto unexplored lands and seas, physiologists who have developed Pavlov's teachings, geologists who, for 26 years, have been making a thorough study of the mineral wealth in the earth's surface, botanists, chemists, physicists and others have all been working fruitfully for the advancement of science.

"WINGED WORDS"

The words of the poet "You may be no poet, but citizen you must be" are "winged words" amongst the Soviet people, and express the honour attached to civic duty; they are equally applicable to the scientists who place the interests of their country above all else. The leading Russian scientists have always been ardent patriots, and they loyally serve their country. Still greater have been their services to their country since the great October Revolution when peoples, who inhabited the former Russian Empire, began to build a new and joyous way of life, a life which by science has been given the honourable place it is worthy of.

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS—I

Ramayya Who Wasted Paper and was Recorded.

By R. G.

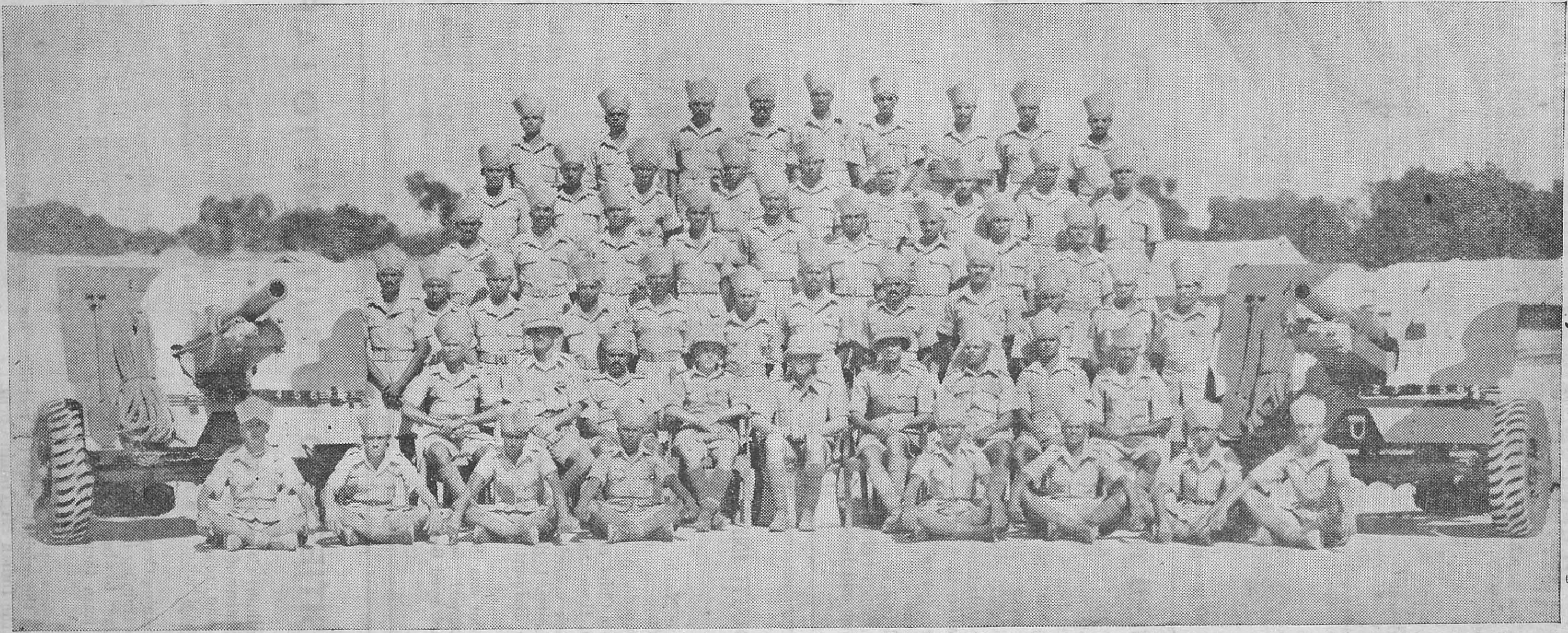
Ramayya dearly loved a Note
In which he could with ardour quote
Proceedings of the Board of Rev.:
Or G. O. Miscellaneous (Dev :)
And with a fine precision trace
The antecedents of the case.
When war broke out, still Raman tried
To keep the matter dignified
And wound himself and others tight
In inky coils from morn till night,
Explaining how *this* rule was made
And that rule *had* to be obeyed.
So he his time and brains consumed
And did not see that he was doomed.
For time grew short and temper shorter
And suddenly a higher quarter
Decreed "This is preposterous;
Ramayya is an incubus.
He wears out paper, pens and eyes
(All which we must economize)
And floods us out with seas of ink
When we require some space to think.
He buries meaning under tons
Of 'paragraph two, sub-paragraph ones'.
The time has come now to dispose
Of this Ramayya's endless prose.
He's not essential to the nation;
Let him be shelved for the duration."
. . . They wrote 'Recorded' on his jacket
And stitched him a tidy packet
And in a cellar very dim
Among the files they buried him.

Moral.

In time of war too much verbosity
May be repressed with real ferocity.

MADRASSI TROOP WHICH FIRED THE VICEREGAL SALUTES

AT DELHI ON OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20, 1943



Top row :—Dvr. Mohd. Ebrabim ; Gnr. Govindan ; Gnr. Packi Reddy ; Gnr. Bobrayya ; Gnr. Eeranna ; Gnr. Pokkar ; Dvr. Kandan ; Dvr. Appanna ; Gnr. Ghulam Sheriff.

Second row :—Gnr. Karuppiah Serve ; Gnr. Mari ; Dvr. Perumal ; Dvr. Madhavan Pillai ; Dvr. P. John ; Gnr. Ramulu ; Dvr. Yohan ; Dvr. Munuswamy ; Dvr. Munuswamy.

Third row :—Dvr. Venkita Rajulu ; Gnr. Doraiswami ; Gnr. Veeraswamy ; M/Mech. Veerappa ; Gnr. Narasingaperumal ; Dvr. Ramaswamy ; Dvr. Veeraswamy ; Dvr. Gopalaswamy ; Gnr. Edwin.

Fourth row :—Hav. Krishnaswamy ; Dvr. Narayanan ; L/Nk. Kannan ; Nk. Anthony ; L/Nk. Chinnappan ; Hav. Tulasidas ; Hav. Subbiah Pillai ; Hav. Govindaswamy ; L/Nk. Ananthan Pillai ; Nk. Perumal ; Dvr. Vazir Jan ; Hav. Doraiswamy.

Seated on chairs :—Q.M. Hav. Alagiriswamy ; Sgt. Mundey ; Jem. Nagalingam ; Lieut. Arculus, I.A. ; Capt. F. G. FLETCHER, R.A., Trp. Cmdr. ; Lieut. Rama Rao, I.A. ; Jem. Natesan ; Hav. Major Palayya ; Hav. Kandaswamy.

Squatting on the ground :—Sig. Sreedharan Pillai ; Dvr. Rama Chetty ; Gnr. Ponnuswamy ; Gnr. Gopalan ; Dvr. Mari Gadu ; Gnr. Chinnappan ; Sig. Sand. Veeran ; G.S. Koran.

CIVIL PIONEERS RESCUE PROPERTY FROM FLOODED RIVER

ARTICLES worth about Rs. 34,000 were rescued by men and commissioned officers of the Civil Pioneer Force in the recent Madras floods.

The Pioneers went into action on receiving the information that numerous petrol tins, evidently belonging to the military, were floating along the flooded river in the vicinity of their camp. Wading in deep water and slush and in the face of difficult conditions about 400 Pioneers assisted in salvaging military property. Scores of Pioneers, especially the natives of Vizagapatam side, swam across the strong currents and rescued hundreds of articles swiftly floating along the river which was fast overflowing its banks.

Property thus rescued included barrels of aviation spirit, kerosene tins, ghee tins, hundreds of empty petrol tins and barrels, provisions and records.

Trained for such work in an emergency the Civil Pioneers have had other similar opportunities for putting their training into practice. One unit of the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force was engaged in active relief work in the cyclone affected area of Midnapore in 1942. On an earlier occasion the Pioneers rendered valuable service in repairing bunds damaged by floods in Nadia district; and a year ago one unit assisted the civil authorities in carrying out relief work necessitated by floods in the vicinity of Lahore. Recently a party of Civil Pioneers has been engaged on anti-locust campaign in the North-West Frontier Province.

Besides rendering help in the construction of roads and aerodromes for military use, some of these units of disciplined labour have been engaged on a number of public works projects. Some time ago the Public Works Department of the Bombay Government employed a few units for constructing roads, embankments and bridges for the use of the public. At the foothills of the Himalayas, in the United Provinces, a detachment of the U.P. unit was recently working on the loading and transportation of timber for the Forest Department.

DERAILED TRAIN—MEDICAL AID FLOWN BY ARMY

Action taken by the military authorities is expected to have saved the lives of many of those who were injured in the derailment of the Indo-Ceylon Express at Serndanur Railway station at the early hours on Sunday, November 14.

A plane was flown 200 miles to the hospital into which the casualties were moved. The medical aid flown consisted of a medical officer and a surgical team of two surgeons with nursing staff. The party was sent complete with surgical operating equipment and is now busy on the job of tending casualties.

A special military ambulance train was sent to the scene of the accident and brought back the casualties to Madras, where they were met by A.R.P. First Aid Parties and Ambulances.

Immediately on receipt of the news of the accident, military personnel stationed in the neighbourhood were rushed to the spot and placed at the disposal of the Railway authorities. They worked tirelessly in removing debris, rescuing the trapped passengers and in tending the injured. Military transport was also placed at the disposal of the Railway authorities to remove the injured to hospital. Uninjured Service personnel, British and Indian, who were travelling on the train also rendered valauble help.

SOUTH INDIAN VETERAN OF KEREN MEETS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Subedar Parsuram Naidu of Secunderabad, a veteran of Keren, was among those whom the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, met in his inspection tour of the forward areas on the Burma border. Subedar Naidu is serving in a divisional signals unit.

The Commander-in-Chief also chatted with a grizzled veteran wearing a 1911 medal awarded to members of a Guard-of-Honour to King George when he passed through Aden.

General Auchinleck visited an Indian field company, a mountain regiment and battalions of the Rajputana Rifles, Mahratta Light Infantry and Patiala Regiment. At the Patiala's headquarters, he was greeted by Colonel Balwant Singh, commanding the unit, who holds 14 decorations, including medals from the last war.

A feature of the tour was the Commander-in-Chief's visit to a hospital for Indian troops where he inspected the well-equipped operating theatres. In this hospital he saw victims of a recent air-raid, among whom were black-eyed Bengali children, aged ten or less, one of whom at least had lost a limb.

UNIVERSITIES AND RECRUITMENT TO I.A.F.

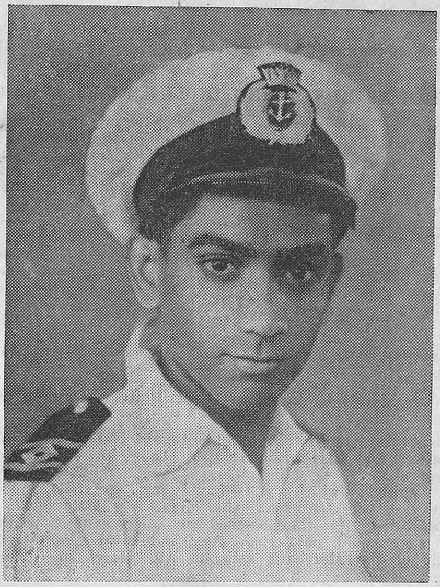
The Indian Air Training Corps, now functioning at six Indian Universities, will, in future, be primarily used for the recruitment of officers to the General Duties (Aircrew) Branch of the Indian Air Force. Successful candidates, who are recommended by the University authorities, will not have to appear, as in the past, before Provincial Selection Board but will go straight to the Officers' Selection Board.

The Indian Air Training Corps Scheme, which was inaugurated early this year, was primarily meant to provide pre-service training in Air Force subjects for prospective entrants to the Indian Air Force. It was essentially designed to absorb into the ranks of the Indian Air Force young men of good education and character and to train them in one or more of the highly skilled technical trades connected with aviation.

This deviation from the original policy (of recruiting for the ranks only) marks an important stage in the development of the Indian Air Trainin Corps.

STORY OF A GALLANT ACTION IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

AN INTERVIEW WITH LIEUT. N. ANANTHAN NAIR, M.B.E.



SECOND LIEUT. N. ANANTHAN NAIR, M.B.E.

We published in our last issue Sir Samuel Ranganadhan's reference, in a B.B.C. talk, to the award of M.B.E., to Mr. N. Ananthan Nair, Second Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy. Mr. Nair is now a Second Lieutenant in the Third Madras Regiment, and in the following radio interview broadcast recently from A.I.R., Madras, gives the full story of the action which earned him his well-deserved distinction.

INTERVIEWER: I am glad, Mr. Nair, to have this opportunity to meet you and to hear from your own lips an account of your life on the high seas with our Merchant Navy. But before I request you to tell me of your experiences and exploits I am sure you wouldn't mind my asking you some questions?

NAIR: Oh! No. Not in the least.

INTERVIEWER: You come from Travancore, don't you?

NAIR: Yes, I come from Trivandrum where I spent the early years of my life.

INTERVIEWER: When did you join the Mercantile Marine?

NAIR: It was about four years ago; I was then just 21 years of age.

INTERVIEWER: What made you choose the Merchant Marine?

NAIR: It is very hard for me to tell you now what actually impelled me to join the Merchant Marine. But I must say that the proximity of the sea to my home and ships passing to and fro in the distant horizon with silver lights all night made a deep impression on me. I was eager to be on one of those ships and explore the countries beyond.

INTERVIEWER: Any other reason?

NAIR: I had just then obtained "a Marconi certificate for wireless operating". I thought I could put my knowledge of this to good use. At this time I happened to be in Calcutta and I succeeded in obtaining a position as second radio officer on board a passenger-cum-cargo boat which used to ply on the Calcutta-Singapore route.

INTERVIEWER: When was your first voyage?

NAIR: It was early in 1940.

INTERVIEWER: At what ports did you call during your various trips?

NAIR: Most of the time it was Rangoon, but occasionally we used to call at Singapore, Penang, Port Swettenham, Malacca and Akyab.

INTERVIEWER: I forgot to ask you; how many trips in all have you done during your stay with our Merchant Marine?

NAIR: Oh, any number. Regularly we used to make at least three trips a month.

INTERVIEWER: I take it then, Mr. Nair, that you must have had plenty of thrills during your trips to and fro?

NAIR: Yes, plenty. If I may tell you something amusing, here it is. Early in 1942, I was on a passenger boat which was outward bound from Rangoon. It was pitch dark and the sea was choppy. At a distance we sighted a small craft. This raised our suspicions for no one on legitimate work would have risked his life in such a small boat on a choppy sea. Immediately we gave chase with full steam ahead. The suspicious looking boat was cutting across our path and we rammed it. Imagine our surprise when we found it was a small Burmese fishing boat. The boat had capsized and the four Burmese fishermen whom we rescued wailed the loss of their precious cargo—a goodly catch.

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK

INTERVIEWER: Any exciting adventures?

NAIR: Yes; once we were torpedoed while we were on our way to a certain port fully laden with petrol; but fortunately the torpedo just missed us, thanks to good navigation by our skipper. The incident took place some time after the Jap occupation of Rangoon.

INTERVIEWER: And now, Mr. Nair, I am sure our listeners would be anxious to know what you felt like when you were informed you had been awarded the M.B.E.

NAIR: Naturally I was glad; but it was certainly a great surprise. I had thought that the action for which I have been decorated was nothing extraordinary. It was all in the day's work.

INTERVIEWER: Of course you are modest; but tell me. We know but rather vaguely of the action, from the official citation accompanying your award. Could you let us have the full story of the action?

NAIR: By all means.

INTERVIEWER: I understand it took place somewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

NAIR: Yes; it happened like this. It was in the spring of last year, on the 5th of April 1942. We were sailing in the Bay of Bengal. It was early in the morning. If I remember aright, it was a Monday. It was a grey dawn. My watch was just over and I had been relieved. I went down to my cabin, had a cup of coffee and was just settling down to have a short nap. Just then the alarm went off!

INTERVIEWER: Where were the others on board the ship?

NAIR: Naturally, at that time of the morning, most of the men were still asleep. On hearing the warning they hurriedly scrambled to their posts.

INTERVIEWER: What was the cause of the alarm?

NAIR: Because suddenly from out of the blue came the sound of an aeroplane. It was rapidly overhead. I was still in my cabin when a shell struck the forward hatches. I ran to the wireless cabin to take up my post.

INTERVIEWER: And then what happened?

NAIR: As I was rushing to the promenade deck I saw in addition an aircraft carrier to port, a cruiser to starboard, and a gunboat full astern. They closed in on us at terrific speed, the aircraft carrier opening fire. There was little doubt now that we were being attacked by the Japs.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have any arms to defend yourself?

NAIR: No, we were practically unarmed.

INTERVIEWER: Had you any warships escorting you?

NAIR: None, we were sailing alone and not in a convoy.

JAPS VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

INTERVIEWER: The Japs must have known you were unarmed and not in convoy. Still they went on firing at you. Was that so?

NAIR: Yes, they kept on firing even at a close range of 300 yards. They also attacked us from the air. Three Jap planes from the aircraft carrier were bombing us all the time.

INTERVIEWER: Surely this was a flagrant violation of International Law, for the Japs to bomb and shell you who were absolutely defenceless and had no means of rescue nearby.

NAIR: That is so; but then we know the Japs and we never expect them to have any regard for the principles of International Law.

INTERVIEWER: Lieutenant Nair, when you were being attacked, couldn't you send out a wireless message for help?

NAIR: We just couldn't, for before we could lash out any message by the radio, a shell struck our wireless cabin and both the main and the emergency transmitters were put out of action. Then I fixed a portable radio set on a life boat, but unfortunately another shell struck that, and that too blew up.

INTERVIEWER: Looks to me the Japs were determined to see that your communications were cut off and to make sure that you were helpless and perished in the waters. Despite their tall talk about Bushido and all that, this shows them up in their true colours.

NAIR: Yes, quite so.

INTERVIEWER: Please continue, what happened afterwards?

NAIR: By now our forecastle had gone down and our boat was listing dangerously to starboard and the water was slashing the deck. Then the captain gave orders to abandon the ship. She went down 20 to 30 shells pumped into her. The whole action was over in five minutes. The last to leave the ship was our skipper, Master M. Costello. With the firing so intense and the listing so heavy, we lost practically all the life boats. There were, however, a couple of damaged boats, which luckily for us, got loose and began floating away and we just swam for them.

Here I must tell you, only the night before we had rescued some sixty shipwrecked sailors. And little did we realize then that ten hours later we too would be sharing the same fate.

INTERVIEWER: Didn't the Japs make any attempt to rescue you?

NAIR: No, none at all. In fact they seemed to take a fiendish delight in our plight. With their colours flying the Japs now cruised around us taking photographs of us clinging to the wreckage.

INTERVIEWER: Pardon me, but did any one panic?

NAIR: The men had nothing but hatred written on their faces, hatred of the callous and brutal behaviour of the Japs. I may add that the Japs when they had developed their photographs would have seen nothing but a bunch of sailors rather grim-faced, but stout-hearted.

INTERVIEWER: Isn't the sea shark-infested? Surely the Japs must have made some attempt to rescue you from the sharks.

NAIR: Far from it, in fact they were enjoying our unhappy predicament and the last we saw of them was the air-craft carrier clearing off. On the flight-deck was lined about 200 Jap sailors who paraded before us proud of what they had done to us and then the air-craft carrier steamed away.

INTERVIEWER: My God! Can you beat it! How long were you in the open sea before you reached safety?

48 HOURS BUFFETING IN THE SEA

NAIR: For two days we were at the mercy of the wind, which was high, the waves and the sharks; some of us were wounded and all clung on to our leaky life-boats and rafts for dear life. Eventually after 48 hours buffeting in the open sea, we touched land on the East Coast.

INTERVIEWER: On reaching land what did you do?

NAIR: I went along with the Captain of the ship whom we had rescued the day before, and pushed inland a few miles towards a hamlet. The villagers were very kind to us and gave us milk and fruits and generally made us very comfortable.

INTERVIEWER: Can you tell me how many thus escaped?

NAIR: About 30 to 35 including Indians, Chinese and British.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you, Lieutenant Nair, and congratulations and good wishes to you. India has every reason to be proud of the gallant band of her merchant sea-men. The episode which you have just related to me epitomises the spirit of the Mercantile Marine. The Japs shelled you, they bombed you, they sunk your ship but they could not crush your indomitable spirit, the spirit of the Merchant sailors. All glory to them.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

NOW that the Mediterranean has been transformed from Mussolini's "Mare Nostrum" into "Cunningham's Pond," it is permissible to say something about the transformation brought about primarily by the capture of Sicily. The Royal Navy naturally played a major role in this startling change, thus reaping the reward of doggedness in the days when Malta, Tobruk and Crete were grim ordeals.

In the transformation scene the Royal Indian Navy was privileged to play a small but worthy part, and by taking part in combined operations as well as in convoy duties it learnt a great deal about such things—experience which will stand it in good stead when it comes to carrying the war to the enemy in the East, writes an R.I.N. Observer.

His Majesty's Indian ships were present in the Mediterranean before the Sicilian show began. They were present at zero hour off the beaches when Eighth Army were disembarking, having helped to escort men and materials from North African ports. They again assisted in bringing the first big convoy of reinforcements across while the battle of Catania was raging, and helped to beat off an air attack in Augusta harbour on the night of their arrival.

In the succeeding weeks they continued to help in clearing the Mediterranean of the last remnants of Axis seapower. They hunted U-boats along the Cyrenaican coast; they visited ports in Italian and French North Africa where no Royal Indian Navy ship had ever called before; they traversed the sea from Haifa to Gibraltar and helped to escort important convoys of American Liberty ships laden with supplies for Russia.

CORDIAL COMRADESHIP WITH ALLIED NAVIES

In all these operations, relations between the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, as well as other Allied Navies, have been most cordial. Often warships of three nationalities formed the escort of a convoy; whoever happened to be the Senior Officer Escort—and sometimes it fell to the Royal Indian Navy ship—there was never any hitch in carrying out the elaborate ritual of convoy duty or tackling any sudden underwater menace which might arise. That things went so smoothly was, of course, in large measure due to the very thorough pre-arranged plan which provided for all eventualities.

When we came into port to refuel or boiler-clean, our ships had the whole-hearted co-operation of the shore authorities of the Royal Navy. It was a treat to arrive in harbour and find ourselves boarded immediately by specialist officers asking what they could do for us in the way of effecting minor repairs or affording facilities.

ENJOYED ITSELF

Two points deserve special mention. One was the excellent quality of the victuals. Everything we drew from shore depots, whether it was meat or bread or rice, was of the best. Our men, accustomed as they are to getting good rations in India, agreed that the flour, for instance, was better than the standard Indian quality. They lived like fighting cocks, for the fine cool weather and rigorous living gave them hearty appetites and helped to build up their physique.

When it came to medical attention ashore, doctors and hospitals could not do enough for us. If we sent ratings for dental treatment, they were given priority and expert treatment. If we sent them to hospital, they found themselves the objects of special solicitude by medical and nursing staffs.

So also when we stayed long enough in a port to allow "libertymen" ashore (the Navy's term for shore leave), our men found themselves fraternising with Royal Navy ratings and having a good time. Special excursions were arranged, as when the British Mission to Sailors in a Levant port organised a series of conducted tours to cities and sights of the Holy Land. Normally, naval ratings would have had to pay for these pleasures, but they were provided free for our men.

Altogether, the Royal Indian Navy enjoyed itself at work and play in the Mediterranean. That the goodwill it felt towards its "big brother" the Royal Navy was mutual, was shown by a signal made by the Commander-in-Chief Levant when one of our ships left those waters, wishing us goodbye and good luck and thanking us for our "most valuable assistance."

Here is a story of rationing in the U.S.A. about a New York woman who went along to collect sugar coupons for the first time.

She found the right building—but went into a room where blood donors were dealt with. A doctor tested her blood group, drew the regulation amount of blood, and showed her out with a polite speech of thanks.

So far, apparently, she had accepted everything as part of the normal routine, but now felt it was time to protest. "But," she said firmly, "you haven't given me my coupon."

THE ARMY TRANSFUSION SERVICE, INDIA

Blood transfusion is regarded as the greatest medical advance in the treatment of the wounded that this war has yet produced and an Army Transfusion Service for India has been created on similar lines to that established in the United Kingdom. Two Blood Depots set up at Poona and Dehra Dun have been equipped with modern apparatus and have been staffed by personnel who formerly worked in the Army Transfusion Service, England. These two Depots act as the headquarters of the Army Transfusion Service for West and East India respectively. Photo shows *a donor in the process of giving blood.*

Picture shows *Crystalloidol solutions being removed from autocl ve. These are raised to a pressure of 20 lb. per square inch for 20 mins. to destroy all bacteria.*

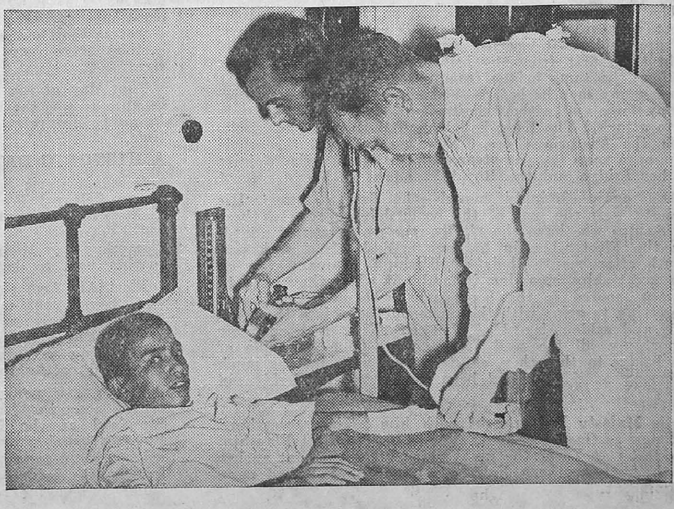


Photo shows *a Gurka being given a blood transfusion in one of the I.H.Ms.*

FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR 600 YEARS, IN WARTIME . . .

A REIGNING MONARCH GOES TO SEA WITH HIS FLEET

By COMMANDER ANTHONY KIMMINS

ON several occasions in the past I have been privileged to tell you about Naval operations and what went on in the heat of battle. Now I want to tell you about another sort of Naval occasion, one in which bombs, guns and torpedoes played only a minor part, but which to us in the Navy was none the less exciting for that. Any visit by His Majesty the King is one of those great moments which stand out in every sailor's memory.

We in the Navy realize, of course, that we are not alone in that, and that most of you in all walks of life have at some time or other been honoured and thrilled by similar visits.

All the same, when our King comes to visit his ships we feel it's just a little bit different. Just a little bit extra. You see, to us he is not only a very distinguished visitor; he is not only our King. He is a sailor, one of us. A man who has been through all our early Naval training, who has experienced all the hard discipline of the Naval College, who has weathered all the traditional leg-haulings and pitfalls of those first days at sea, and above all has had actual battle experience at Jutland.

Watch him coming down the steep ladders from the Fore Bridge. There is no taking them backward or grasping the hand-rails and cautiously picking his way down on his heels. Oh, no, it is a sure-footed run down with a swing off the hand-rail at the bottom. Countless hours as midshipman of the watch taught him that little trick.

He moves like us and he speaks our language, so do not blame us if we feel just a little—what shall I say?—possessive.

Only a sort while ago, His Majesty went out to North Africa and Malta to thank his subjects and their Allied brothers-in-arms for the great victories they had achieved. But being a sailor he realized that, from the naval point of view, there was another great Fleet—the Home Fleet—whose contribution to the war, although recently far less spectacular, had been no less devoted.

AN EXACTING TASK

He knew that while his ships in the Mediterranean had fought down the coasts with his advancing Armies, had carried those Armies across open seas to new lands to conquer, and had knocked seven bells out of those enemy ships who had dared to venture from their ports, his Home Fleet meanwhile had what in many ways was a far more exacting task—the task of watching and waiting, of bottling up the very considerable German Fleet and rendering it impotent.

But he knew another thing, too. He knew all too well from personal experience in the Grand Fleet during the last war what it meant to the individual to sit up there in northern waters and watch and wait.

He knew exactly what it meant to be so near and yet so far from home. What it meant to spend month after month training and exercising—waiting for the moment. What it meant to write letter after letter with no news, while sailors in other parts of the world were writing glowing accounts of recent victories.

That is why the King insisted on visiting his Home Fleet as soon as possible after his return, and now—as he approached—it seemed very fitting that he should sight them first from the bridge of the Destroyer leader *Onslow*; the same bridge from which Captain Sherbrooke—not many months before—had sighted a vastly superior enemy force and without hesitation had led his destroyers in to attack. The King had honoured Rupert Sherbrooke with the Victoria Cross. Now he honoured the whole ship once more as she steamed proudly in, His Majesty on her bridge and the Royal Standard at her masthead.

And again—fittingly enough—the first to greet His Majesty were the men of the boom defence vessels, those little ships who have the vitally important task of guarding the Fleet when in harbour. Week after week and month after month their small ships' companies watch the great ships steaming in and out while they have to remain moored to the boom gate with never a chance of getting to grips with the enemy. Theirs is a thankless task and seldom heard of, but the King realized their importance all too well and, moving from one side of the bridge to the other, saluted them with just as much ceremony as if they had been the largest battleships in the Fleet.

His Majesty had brought with him 'King's weather,' and now as *Onslow* steamed close up to the Fleet Flagship, the *Duke of York*, the great ships lying there at anchor in the soft northern light could not have looked more magnificent.

As bugles sounded the Alert and bosun's pipes shrilled, the King ran up the starboard gangway of the *Duke of York*. As he reached the quarter deck, the Royal Marine Guard of Honour presented arms and the massed bands broke into the National Anthem. With the men stiffly to attention and the officers at the salute, there was not a movement—not a flicker of an eyelid. And then, as the last notes died away, the King stepped forward and smiling broadly grasped the hand of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser.

HAPPY REUNION

A royal visit—a happy reunion with his friends. It was the same everywhere he went. 'No matter what the ship—whether the *Malaya*, one of the battleships in which he served during the last war, our own Fleet Destroyers, the Greek Destroyer *Themistocles*, the *Huron* manned by great lusty Canadians, a submarine, or the Indian sloop *Godavari*. Wherever he went, the King always seemed to be finding old friends. Friends he had met on his travels overseas, old shipmates, men with ribbons on their chests whom he had decorated at Buckingham Palace, youngsters he had last met round camp fires at his Duke of York's camps.

Australians, Canadians, South Africans and men from all over the world had come thousands of miles to serve in the Home Fleet, but perhaps the scene in the Royal Indian Sloop *Godavari* brought this home more than anywhere else. Somehow those dark glistening faces and the Sikhs in their white turbans looked grander than ever up there in those northern waters.

Their ship was spotless. When they had first heard the news of who was coming aboard, they just had not believed it. It could not be true. Then they set to and spent the whole night cleaning and polishing. By the time the King arrived, their ship—from the shining brass-work down to the ship's cat with a blue ribbon round her neck, was a picture. When His Majesty left, I purposely remained on board. I felt I must stop and hear them cheer at close quarters. 'Three cheers for the King Emperor.' There was something in that cheer which I cannot describe. As the Royal barge steamed away, the disperse was sounded but those men did not leave the rails. They watched until the barge had gone alongside the Flagship, until their King Emperor had gone inboard—and for a long time after he disappeared from view.

HANDS WERE STILL TREMBLING

Some time later I was talking to the Indian Yeoman of Signals who had broken the Royal Standard at the masthead. His hands were still trembling with excitement.

Next day when His Majesty took his Fleet to sea, that small sloop was given the proud privilege of being the leading ship—the Guide of Fleet—as we steamed out of harbour. As we reached the open sea she hauled out on the starboard beam. At her yardarm fluttered the signal 'Long Live the King Emperor.' Down her side those men from all over India stood, cheering themselves hoarse. The King Emperor jumped up on to a steel chest and saluted until they were well astern. And then—just as they had watched him disappear the night before—stood there very still watching them dropping out of sight.

That day at sea was an historic one. It was historic because it was the first time for nearly 600 years that a Reigning Sovereign had taken his Fleet to sea in wartime.

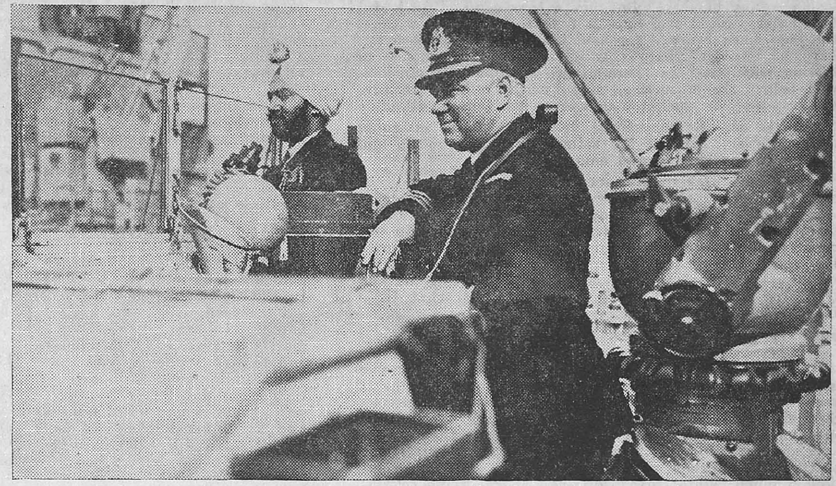
A HISTORIC DAY

It was historic because every possible modern development of Naval Warfare was exercised, and there were great proud moments—great battleships, the finest in the world, steaming past at full speed with their bow-waves streaming over their fo'c'sles. Coastal Command aircraft roaring past to demonstrate low-level bombing.

Fleet Air Arm aircraft diving down with sleeve targets and being met with a curtain of tracers racing up. Others suddenly appearing through the clouds to carry out torpedo attacks. Gunnery practices of all kinds culminating in great deafening broadsides from the assembled battleships.

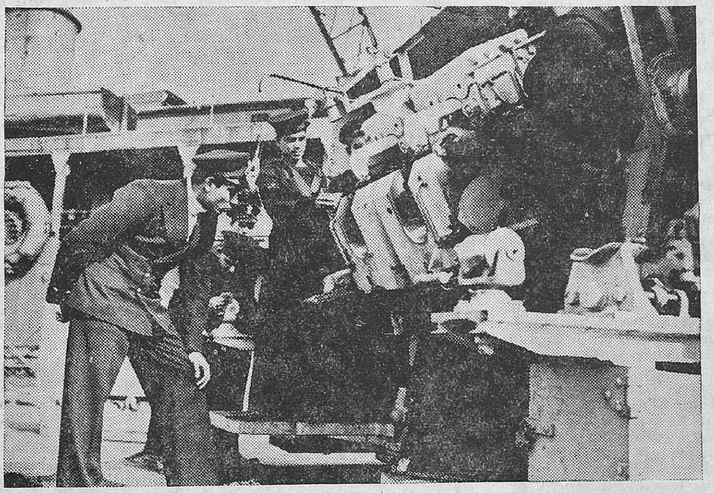
Yes, great moments of might and power and many others none the less significant. Our King—his Royal Standard at the Main—giving his own orders to the Fleet; discussing every new development with the knowledge of an expert, and then suddenly, during a lull, leaving the bridge and disappearing down below to the boiler and engine rooms.

ROYAL VISIT TO H.M.I.S. "GODAVARI"



Recently His Majesty the King honoured the Royal Indian Navy by paying a visit of inspection to H.M.I.S. Godavari *during the course of his tour of the Home Fleet. When His Majesty cameaboard H.M.I.S.* Godavari *he was received by the Commanding Officer, Commander (now Captain) J. W. Jefford, Royal Indian Navy. Accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, an equerry and high ranking officer, His Majesty made a complete round of the ship and met the heads of departments. He inspected the ship's company, saw the mess decks lined with men from all over India and had a word with many of them. He even visited the engine room. The Royal Standard, hoisted by the Chief Yeoman of Signals, Raj Wali, flew during the period His Majesty was on board the ship and when he left, the ship's company manned the side and cheered their royal visitor.*

On the bridge of H.M.I.S. Godavari *are seen the Commanding Officer, Commander J. W. Jefford, R.I.N., and the Navigating Officer, Lieutenant P. Singh Mahendroo, R.I.N.R.*



Gun's-crews on board H.M.I.S. Godavari *take a pride in keeping the mechanism of their 4-inch high-angle low-angle weapons in perfect working order.*

On the bridge of H.M.I.S. Godavari *signalmen are engaged in receiving a signal; one rating is reading and reporting the signal while another is taking it down.*

You know, so many of us are inclined to forget the men down below. We are so inclined to visualise ships from the outside only. Great bow waves—groups on the bridge—guns blazing. But not so our King. He knows that no ship could ever hope to fight for a moment without the men down below. The men who in the heat of battle have no idea of what is going on, have no chance of hitting back, and who stand there sticking to their jobs, well below the waterline, surrounded by high pressure steam pipes—in the most dangerous position of all.

That is why he seized the first opportunity of going down into the heat of the boiler and engine rooms and talking to his stokers and engineers.

There were others, of course, with whom he could not talk. The Fleet Air Arm crews, for instance, who carried out dummy torpedo and dive-bombing attacks. I felt so much for those Fleet Air Arm pilots because in the past I have flown before our King on similar occasions. I can remember it so well. We knew we would probably never actually see him, but he would be watching us and that was good enough. We would give just that little bit extra.

THE OTHER SIDE

And now as I watched it the other day, I saw the other side of the picture. The latest types screaming in and showing off their magnificent paces. Then the Swordfish—the old stringbags—determined not to be outdone diving at a much steeper angle than they should have done, their pilots squeezing the very last ounce out of them. And then the whole lot flying past in formation, a much tighter formation than official flying regulations allow, but their way of showing their loyalty and devotion. And down below the King darting from side to side of the bridge, watching every move and—as a pilot himself—just a little anxious at their obvious over-enthusiasm and, as soon as they headed for home, sending a signal which I know gave those young Fleet Air Arm crews one of the biggest kicks of their lives.

And so a great occasion had to come to a close. Many memories will stick in my mind for ever. The King at sea—standing in the open, his figure momentarily obliterated by the yellow cordite fumes from the foremost turrets. Then the next moment raising his binoculars to study the fall of shot. The King talking to his sailors, smiling and happy. At their concert, joining in the community singing and laughing heartily at their jokes; at Divine Service sharing with all of us that greatest of all seafaring hymns *Eternal Father*.

Steaming out of harbour in the cruiser *Phœbe* the crews of all the warships packed tight and cheering themselves hoarse. And away in the distance a small but very persistent cheer. The crew of a little drifter—not more than a dozen hands but determined to make themselves heard at all costs. And the King—quickly moving to that side of the bridge—giving them a special salute.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

But perhaps among them all, the one that will stand out in my memory for ever is a moment during dinner in the Commander-in-Chief's cabin—a long narrow room, buff-coloured walls and a long polished table down the middle. In the centre of one side sits the King. Immediately opposite the Commander-in-Chief Sir Bruce Fraser, and to either side—spread round the table—the admirals and captains commanding the ships of his Fleet. It has been a gay and lovely evening. A very simple meal, some serious talk, a number of reminiscences and a lot of laughs. And as dinner finishes we have arrived at the moment when the Navy is allowed to exercise its privileged custom of drinking the King's health sitting down.

The Commander-in-Chief taps the table—'Gentlemen, the King.'

And while His Majesty sits very still, the Captains of all those ships raise their glasses and voicing not only their own thoughts but the feelings of all their ships companies from all over the Empire, give the time honoured reply: 'The King—God bless him.'

—Broadcast in the B.B.C.'s Pacific Service.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION OF AIRCRAFT

FIGHTER SQUADRONS' WORK IN BRITAIN

AIRCRAFT presented by the people of India and by the Rulers of Indian States have done good work in Britain.

Among the various squadrons fighting in this war may be mentioned the three Spitfire squadrons known as the Punjab Fighter squadrons; the Baroda and Bhopal squadrons presented by the Rulers of those States, along with the Mysore Fighter squadron presented by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore; the Hurricane squadron presented by the people of the United Provinces and known as the United Provinces squadron. The people of the Madras Presidency contributed to the purchase of a Halifax Bomber squadron and three Fighter squadrons. The name of the Bombay Presidency is painted on the fighter planes of another Royal Air Force squadron. The Nizam of Hyderabad has furnished two squadrons of fighters and a bomber squadron which are known as the Hyderabad squadrons. Apart from these, there are fighter machines presented to the Royal Air Force by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. There are also many other planes which are the gifts of the people of India.

During the critical period of the Dunkirk operations, when the battle in the skies raged unceasingly hour after hour, German bombers, protected by swarms of fighters, attempted to harass the evacuating army and hour after hour the fighters of the Royal Air Force waged relentless war against them. In this fight the Spitfires of the Punjab Fighter squadrons played a valiant part. Huge formations of Nazi bombers attempted to sink the ships which were carrying the British troops. The sea was thick with craft of all kinds, presenting a vast target to the enemy. One Spitfire squadron alone destroyed 12 German aircraft in one short action and later the same day went up again and shot down another six. Members of the Hyderabad Blenheim squadron have won one George Cross, one D.S.O., 13 D.F.Cs. and one Bar, 19 D.F.Ms. and an M.B.E. Pilots from Britain and nearly all the Dominions are operating in the two Spitfire and Hurricane fighter squadrons which carry the name of "Hyderabad." Both squadrons have done splendid work against the Luftwaffe. The two fighter squadrons have between them shot down well over 100 enemy aircraft, the Spitfires accounting for more than 24 German planes when the enemy was concentrating his attack on the South Coast. Since then the Spitfire squadron has fought twice in the defence of Bristol, in the defence of Southampton and in another big engagement over Dorset. In the Bristol combat they shot down five out of an enemy formation of 80 bombers and escorting fighters. Pilots of Spitfires and Hurricanes have won between them six D.F.Cs. Thus the three squadrons between them have no fewer than 42 battle honours.

In September 1940 during the battle of Britain, the Bhopal and Baroda Spitfire squadrons played a prominent part in the defence of London, shooting down 13 enemy aircraft during their first flight in those operations. Altogether, the squadrons accounted for 30 enemy aircraft in four days during the defence of London.

Here is the story of another Indian Spitfire squadron during the battle of Britain. One day some 400 enemy aircraft made determined attacks on docks and shipping along the south and east coasts. In that one day at least 60 enemy planes were sent crashing. This particular squadron went into action four times during the day and in one of those actions its pilots accounted for ten of the Messerschmitt-110s. The squadron had been ordered to patrol over a convoy off the East Anglian coast. On arrival there they were just in time to see 40 Messerschmitt-110s about to attack the ships. The Spitfires took the bombers by surprise and immediately sent ten of them hurtling down into the sea.

The Madras Defiant squadron made history over the beaches of Dunkirk in defence of the retiring British Expeditionary Force, when it accounted for 60 German aircraft, most of them brought down in a period of three days. In one day alone, May 29, 1940, the squadron set up a record by destroying 37 aircraft.

From the small number of Indians resident in Britain, a very large proportion have joined the various fighting services, many of whom are in the Royal Air Force. Close on 50 of them are commissioned officers and others are members of air crews or groundstaff. They have come from many parts of India and Burma; but wherever they have come from, one outstanding feature has been their single-minded enthusiasm and efficiency.

The Prime Minister was walking among the smoking ruins after a heavy air raid when an old woman greeted him. He asked her how she felt after the night of horror.

"Well, there's one thing about these air raids," she replied, "they do take your mind off the war."

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

LEBANON CRISIS—GERMAN NERVES CRACKING—GENERAL VATUTIN'S VICTORIOUS MARCH—ITALIAN WAR.

A political crisis in Lebanon has eclipsed even the events in the progress of the war in other theatres this week. To whatever internal causes it may be attributed, there is a strong element of suspicion as the Military analyst of the London *Observer* has pointed out, that external influences are at work in Lebanon as part of a comprehensive German scheme of creating trouble in the Eastern Mediterranean. The incident by itself is a clash between the Lebanon Government and the French National Committee regarding the interpretation of the status of independence of the Lebanon Republic. Sovereign independence for Lebanon and for Syria had been proclaimed by General Georges Catroux on behalf of the then Free French Committee in the autumn of 1941; but the French mandate over Lebanon and Syria remained in force, because its termination could only be juridically effected by a legally constituted French Government and by the League of Nations or its successor. The Lebanon Premier, announcing a bill modifying the constitution, said the Lebanon Government held that the constitution as it stood was incompatible with full sovereignty. The French National Committee warned the Lebanon Government that it could not recognize the validity of a unilateral revision of the constitution. Such a revision must await termination of the mandate. Lebanon is garrisoned by British and French troops in accordance with the condition stipulated in the proclamation of independence that the defence of Lebanon and Syria should be ensured by Great Britain and Fighting France during the war.

The Premier's resolution was passed; the members of the Lebanese Cabinet except one, and the President were arrested; and martial law was proclaimed by the French Commissioner in Lebanon on the ground that there was a plot being hatched against France. Senegalese troops under French command are patrolling the streets of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. The Allied authorities are watching the progress of the situation; but on no account can they risk the safety of the Eastern Mediterranean basin, or the peace of the Middle East, especially as situation in the Dodecanese is not quite healthy. Leros, Rhodes, Kalymnos and Cos are all in the hands of the Nazis, although fighting still continues in Leros for its possession between the Allies and the Germans.

The republic of Lebanon, like the republic of Syria, came under French Mandate after the conference of San Remo in 1920. It is a strip of land about 120 miles in length and varying in width from 30 to 35 miles along the Mediterranean sea coast. Lebanon has an extensive coast line and is the most vulnerable part of what is termed the Middle East from the eastern basin of the Mediterranean. As in the case of Syria the treaty with France signed in 1936 promised independence to Lebanon. The population being mainly Christian, the relations with the paramount power have not been so strained as in the case of Syria. When the Allied armies entered Lebanon and forced the Vichy forces to capitulate, Lebanon too, like Syria, was proclaimed an independent sovereign state by General Catroux. For the duration of the war, however, the defence of the country was to be undertaken by the Allies and the Lebanese national forces. Alfred Nakkache was the first president of the new republic. The president who was taken under arrest in the recent incidents is Sheikh Bechara el Khoury who succeeded the first president in the last elections.

Syria and Lebanon, inseparably linked with Palestine, possess more than the normal muddle of people and sects. These constitute the ancient Bible land and have a varied and interesting history. Damascus is a name of old romance associated with the Caliphs and the Syrian emperors of Biblical times. It was to this place that General Naaman came to see Elisha, the Jewish Prophet. to be miraculously cured of his leprosy. It was here again that St. Paul was converted to Christianity. Tyre and Sidon on the coast of Lebanon were centres of the great Phoenician trading empire and the chief naval parts of the Persian Empire. Antioch was the third city of the Roman Empire and the capital from which Vespasian and his line became rulers of the Roman World. Founded by Antiochus, the General of Alexander, this city is the very heart of that synthesis of East and West, which is the characteristic of the Lavant throughout history. Aleppo, Homs, and Hama are names well-known in the history of the Caliphs and Crusades. Not the least interesting is the desert city of Palmyra where the famous queen, Zenobia held her romantic court in 267 A.D. To-day Palmyra is a small but flourishing town with an important aerodrome on the desert route.

It is human nature to express sympathy to the vanquished, the apparently oppressed, the injured, the underdog; but there is a limit imposed upon it by practicability and circumstances. The German craze for getting hold of power in the Middle East was only temporarily stayed by the unexpected reverses in the Caucasus, Iraq, Syria and Iran, and the Allies would be running one of the gravest risks in this most delicate part of the world if their zeal for democracy and independence of small nations were to outrun their military discretion. The Moslem and Arabic States of the Middle East are very vehement in their protestations against the action taken by the Free French National Committee in order to restore order in the riotous condition of Lebanon; but they are only trying to forge another link in the creation and unification of a pan-Arabic block, which of course is quite wholesome and desirable. But a definite policy of keeping the peace at any cost in this area is a condition precedent to any question of independence, especially at a time when the war situation is developing into a crisis, and the enemy would be exerting his maximum to distract the forces and resources of the Allies.

For about fifteen years from the beginning of the mandate in Syria, France had to meet perpetual struggle from the people. But this was only in Syria, and in striking contrast to this situation there was uniform peace throughout Lebanon where the population was mainly Christian, and there was popular willingness to co-operate with the French in administering the country. Trouble began to brew in Lebanon only after its partition from Syria and separate settlement in 1936 between France and Syria, ending the mandate. The first unpleasant episode in the history of the republic of Lebanon was a rebellion of Muhammadans who resented the partition from Syria, and this was accompanied by severe fighting. Turkey too threatened complication, says Hansluck, in *Foreign Affairs*, 1919–1937; "her claims to the district of Alexandretta where a majority of the population were Turks, had been waived by a treaty signed with France in 1928; the abandonment of the mandate was held by Mustapha

UNITED STATES WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS READS LETTER FROM HER SOLDIER SON.—Pvt. Florence M. Byrns of the United States Women's Army Corps reads a letter from her son, who also is an American soldier, aboard an Allied vessel off the coast of North Africa. Surrounding her is a group of the many United States soldiers who regard her almost as a second mother.

Kemal to wipe out the conditions on which this treaty had been based." It is, therefore, no good urging independence on the one hand, or arguing on the basis of the mandate on the other. The peace of the world is at stake, and those who are striking for it cannot afford to precipitate the conditions in that part of the world, where subtle forces are working to undermine all elements of order and security.

GERMANY

On Monday, November 15, Dr. Goebbels made a two-hour speech in Berlin, exhorting the people to sustain their nerves and not to lay down their arms until the twelfth hour. This speech came in the wake of his master's boiling utterance the other day, on November 8, when he assured the German people that 1918 would not be repeated in 1943. "Such an immense struggle cannot end twice the same way;" said Hitler, "November 9, 1943, is not the same as November 9, 1918." These are not the only utterances of the kind to which the public are accustomed to listen from Germany. All of them indicate a conscious, calculated and steady programme of the Nazis to revolutionize the mind of the people slowly so that the change, when it comes, may be spontaneous and without sensation and bloodshed.

"We will not repeat 1918," is the loudest boast of Nazi Germany. The reference is not to the defeat of 1918, but to the German revolution. On November 10, 1918, a mass meeting called by the newly formed "Worker's Councils" of Berlin to assemble in the great hall of the Basch Circus elected the first Government of the German Republic. Within a few days Germany seemed to be transformed. For four years there had been a steady succession of German military triumphs, the fulfilment of that dream of expansion and supremacy which had been summed up in the idea of "Der Tag," and even the addition of the United States of America to her enemies seemed to have little effect in stemming the tide of Germany's victorious progress. In the spring of 1918 the Allied trench line in the west was smashed through and the German armies were heading towards Paris and Calais. In the summer the German progress was checked; by the beginning of autumn a strategic retreat was announced, Germany giving up some small part of her huge conquests. Then in a few weeks came the debacle. One after the other Germany's allies threw in their hands. Like Napoleon in 1814 Ludendorff prepared to rally his armies for another great struggle; but it was then that the long-sustained effort of the German people suddenly collapsed. The outbreak started at Kiel where the sailors of the fleet rose against the Kaiser and perpetuation of the war. Mobs rose in other towns, first in northern Germany, then in the south. The Kiel sailors entrained for the capital, and on their arrival Berlin joined in the revolution. The movement was as universal as it was sudden. No die-hard minority attempted to shoot down the rebels or even tried to pull down the red flags that appeared in scores of German towns. The High Command resigned; the Kaiser abdicated and fled to Holland. The new army Commanders accepted an armistice dictated by Marshal Foch; guns, tanks, aeroplanes and warships were handed over to the Allies and the soldiers streamed off homewards. The Great War was over. The most noteworthy feature of the German revolution was that it was a protest against the continuance of the war than a democratic movement, and it originated with the navy and the civil population, the army making no effort to suppress it. Its progress was most bloody until the Weimar constitution came to be stabilized and the Nazis are now anxious that there shall be no repetition of this in the wake of the inevitable crash of the Hitler regime.

RUSSIA

General Vatutin and his victorious army are now clearing the whole area of Germans between Kiev and the Pripet Marshes. The capture of Kaganovichi has brought the Russian army up to the Pripet-Dnieper Confluence and less than twenty-five miles from Ovruch, while the fall of Korosten is expected every hour. Once this northern flank of the Great Russian salient has been consolidated, General Vatutin will be free to swing round for an all-out drive southwards against the defence line along the river Bug in the Ukraine. This is the position north-west of Kiev.

North of the Kiev bulge the Soviet cavalry and tanks have captured the town of Demekhy and cut the Gomel-Minsk road and railway which cut the marshes in two. Gomel, southern hinge of the White Russia front, is now cut off from the rear with the Red Army standing on three sides. The capture of Demekhy is a bitter blow to the Germans as it was till recently being used by the Germans for getting troops and supplies into Gomel. In the great Dnieper bend south-west of Dniepropetrovsk and north of Krivoi Rog new Soviet onslaughts are reported.

ITALY

From positions twenty miles inland from the Adriatic coast, the Eighth Army is slowly strengthening the Allied line along the Sangro Valley. They have clashed with the German units at Montazzoli, four miles east of the Sangro and six miles north of Catiglione. The Eighth Army has also captured some high ground north of Atessa which was taken at the end of last week. On the Fifth Army front the Germans are putting up fierce defence. The weather has deteriorated and it is holding up operations along the whole front. The Germans are carrying out violent scorched-earth policy in Italy. Whole villages are being set in flames, while all along the Sangro river, the most serious natural obstacle the Eighth Army has yet had to face in Italy, all bridges have been blown.

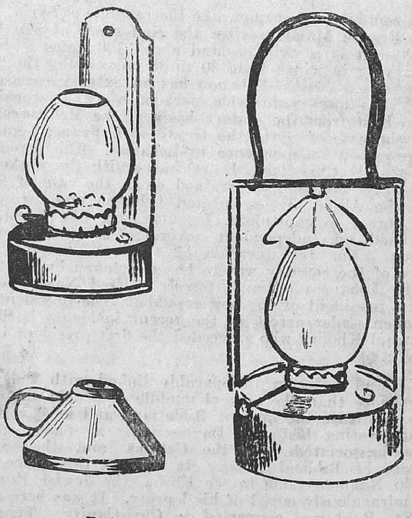
This anecdote is culled from *Collier's*.

Heading home after delivering a load of American soldiers somewhere in the Pacific, a United States army transport picked up a bevy of Japs, drifting around after their ship had been torpedoed. The little men giggled and chattered for a while, but then became gloomily silent. None of the Japs could speak English; no one on the transport could speak Japanese. "Why don't you teach them to sing?" an American officer suggested to a sergeant who worried about the heavy brooding.

The sergeant found he could think of the chorus of only one song. Trying it out, he gesticulated invitations to the Japs to join in. A few tried to sing and seemed to feel better. By evening all were learning the song.

Military authorities felt dizzy when the transport reached a West Coast port. The Jap prisoners shuffled down the gangplank, radiating delight as they carolled lustily: "Gaw Bress Ermerica!"

RAMA DEEPA



Patent No. 29019 of 1942.

Awarded Gold Medal at Mysore Dasara Exhibition, 1943.

The most economical lighting device ever discovered. These three cheap varieties are manufactured for the National War Front, Madras.

Rama Deepa offers a lucrative subsidiary occupation to the agriculturist during the slack season.

If a poor family collects margosa seeds and extracts 12 lb., i.e., 4 viss of oil, its annual lighting requirements will be completely satisfied.

The lamps are available with the District Organizers.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

11TH NOV.—An enemy plane flew over London area and gun fire was heard.

A reshuffle in British Cabinet was announced.

It is reported that Marshal Antonescue has been invited to Hitler's headquarters.

The United States planes attacked targets in western Germany.

12TH NOV.—Mosquitoes bombed objectives in Berlin, Hanover, Ruhr and Munster.

13TH NOV.—The United States Aircraft attacked enemy targets in western and north-western Germany. Bremen was heavily bombed.

A Royal Air Force commentator stated that Germany has doubled her fighter aircraft strength.

14TH NOV.—Mosquitoes bombed Berlin and western Germany.

His Majesty the King sent a message of congratulations to the B.B.C. which celebrates its 21st Birthday to-day.

15TH NOV.—The German Ambassador to Turkey, Fanz Von Papen, left for Berlin yesterday.

16TH NOV.—Before dawn there was some German activity over south and south-west England. Bombs were dropped and damage and casualties have been reported. One town was heavily raided.

A ship-saving device which has already proved one of the most important and successful of the war is being fitted to British tanks, the Ministry of War Transport announced.

Mussolini is believed to have gone to Germany to meet Hitler, said the Swiss newspaper *La Suisse*.

The German Propaganda Minister Dr. Goebbels in a two-hour speech in Berlin yesterday told the Germans not to lose their nerve.

17TH NOV.—The Colonial Secretary, Col. Oliver Stanley, made a statement regarding the British Colonies and their relationship with Britain.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

11TH NOV.—Preparations for a meeting between President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and M. Stalin are understood to be proceeding favourably.

Mr. Cordel Hull had a two-hour conference with President Roosevelt at the White House.

Mr. Roosevelt made a statement on Lend-lease aid in which he acknowledged the assistance rendered by Britain and India.

16TH NOV.—The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, stated at his Press Conference that no secret agreements were reached in Moscow. The Moscow Conference, he declared, laid the basic foundations for widespread post-war international co-operation.

Mr. Cordell Hull declared that a Soviet Monetary Mission was shortly visiting Washington to discuss post-war currency and trade problems.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

11TH NOV.—The Central Assembly continued to meet.

There was an alert in Madras at night. No bombs were dropped.

Heho aerodrome was bombed by United States Liberators.

12TH NOV.—The debate on food situation began in the Central Assembly.

Early this morning enemy reconnaissance aircraft approached Ceylon. One plane was destroyed. No bombs were dropped.

Enemy positions and installations were hit by Royal Air Force bombers in Mayu, Kalemyo, Mandalay, Insein and Prome.

13TH NOV.—The Canadian Government has decided to appoint a High Commissioner to India.

14TH NOV.—Active patrolling continued along the Burma front particularly in the Arakan and Chin Hills sectors. The Allied bombers attacked Mogaung and Maymo.

15TH NOV.—The Central Assembly continued the debate on the food situation. The Council of State met this morning and the Commander-in-Chief reviewed the war situation.

Sir William Beveridge had prepared a social security plan for India too.

16TH NOV.—The Central Assembly continued the discussion of the food situation.

His Excellency the Viceroy met the Premiers of Bengal, North-West Frontier, Punjab and Sind.

Pegu was heavily attacked by the Royal Air Force. Other places attacked included Akyab and Nyavughla.

Brigadier-General W. E. R. Covelle, who has arrived in India to assume command of the America Army Services of Supply, China, Burma and India, will shortly take over from General Wheeler, who is taking up another assignment.

In a talk with press correspondents at New Delhi, General Covelle gave the military view of the China-Burma-India theatre that "this is one of the most important theatres of the war and may become the most important in the not too distant future."

17TH NOV.—The Central Assembly and the Council of State continued in session.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

11TH NOV.—Half of Kiev province has been occupied by the Red Army. The Russians continued to thrust forward west of Kiev. Soviet forces entered Zhitomir province and marched towards Zhitomir City.

12TH NOV.—Fighting on the Kerch was extremely fierce. Soviet forces were within 10 miles of Zhitomir at one point. Troops of the First Ukrainian front captured Korostyshev and more than 100 other localities.

13TH NOV.—Zhitomir, an important railway junction and powerful German defence strong point, was captured by General Vatutin's troops.

14TH NOV.—General Vatutin's forces forged ahead beyond Zhitomir. The new German front line in the Ukraine from Dnieper Bend to Byelaya Iserkov appeared to be on the verge of cracking.

15TH NOV.—The Soviet troops captured Kaganovichi, district centre of the Kiev region and over 40 other places. The Russians made breaches by new attacks south-west of Dnieperpetrovsk.

16TH NOV.—General Vatutin's Red Army rapidly cleared the whole area between Kiev and the Pripet Marshes of the enemy. The Soviet cavalry and tanks captured Dmekhy. The fall of Korosten is expected hourly in Moscow.

17TH NOV.—Soviet troops captured several strongly fortified enemy defence points including Vesolaya Dolina and Krutor. Gen. Von Manstein in a stiff bid to smash the westward drive of Gen. Vatutin has thrown 150,000 men and hundreds of tanks against the Red Army in the Zhetomir-Fastov wedge. Outskirts of Gomel is being shelled.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

11TH NOV.—Along the Fifth Army front enemy resistance was stiff. Forward elements reached the river Sangro.

12TH NOV.—Part of Monte Commino has been captured by General Mark Clark's troops. The Fifth Army beat off counter-attacks and gained some ground. Bad weather and demolitions hampered the Eigth Army.

German forces attacked Leros.

13TH NOV.—The Eighth Army launched an offensive against the new German winter line. General Montgomery's men had driven a deep wedge in the centre of the German line.

The Germans landed fresh troops on Leros and fierce fighting continued.

Crete, Maritza and Cos were also raided.

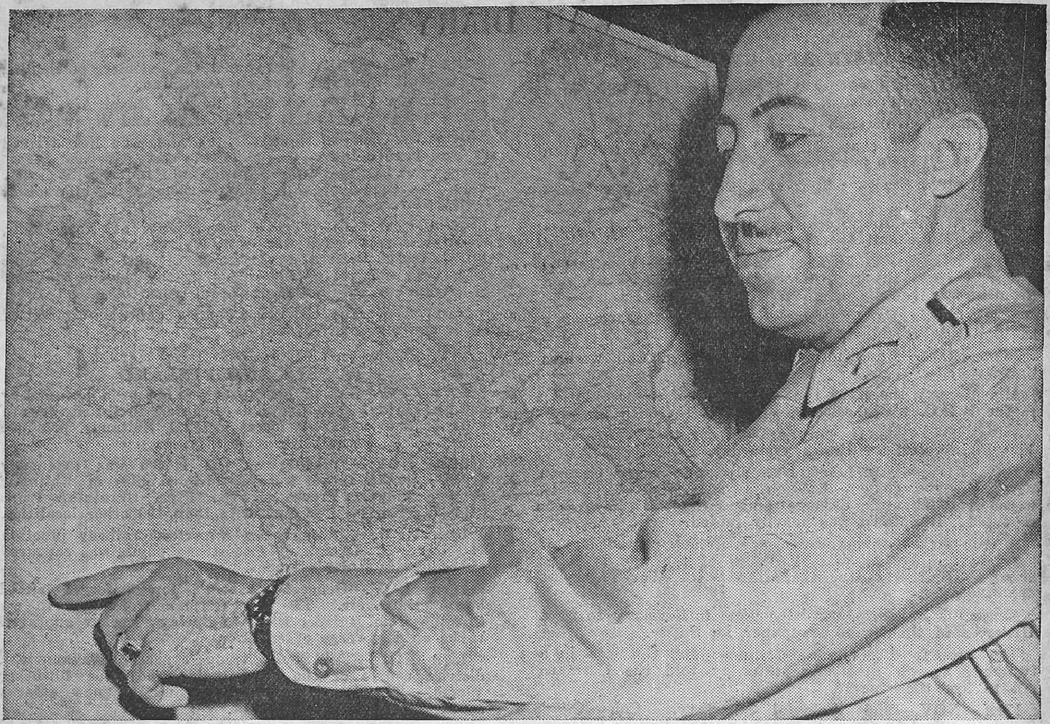
Marshal Badoglio has organized a "Technical Government" consisting of himself as Premier and a series of Under Secretaries expert in the business of administration.

14TH NOV.—Hitler has ordered the Germans to hold their cross Italy winter line till January at all costs. His troops entrenched along the 83-mile mountain bulwarks guarding Rome made grim efforts to obey their Fuhrer's commands. Along the entire front the Eighth and the Fifth Armies were jabbing fiercely against the line in the teeth of driving blizzards.

The sole Civilian Minister in Marshal Badoglio's Government Signor Raffaele Piccardi resigned. Marshal Badoglio explained his enlarging the Government by adding Under Secretaries and his deferring the creation of a Political Government until Rome was occupied when the Marshal declared he personally would resign from office.

15TH NOV.—The situation in Milan was tense and about 1,000 hostages were arrested.

16TH NOV.—The Eighth Army troops straightened the Allied line along the Sangro valley. They clashed with German units at Montazzoli and captured some high



UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER OF SYRIAN BIRTH.—Second Lieutenant Mohammad Siblini of the United States Army points out on a map the spot where he participated in the Allied landings in North Africa as a member of an American infantry division. Thirty-two-year-old Lieutenant Siblini, a Mohammedan, was born in Beirut, Syria.

ground north of Alessa. The Germans put up a fierce defence on the Fifth Army front. The Germans were carrying out violent scorched earth policy. Bad weather hampered operations along the whole front.

17TH NOV.—Bad weather still continued to obstruct operations on all sectors in Italy.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

11TH NOV.—Military objectives in Cherbourg in France were bombed by the Allied bombers.

The French Commissioner in Beirut reported a great plot against France in Lebanon where martial law has been proclaimed. The Chamber of Deputies was dissolved. The President, the Premier and the Cabinet Minister of the Lebanese Government were arrested by the French police. Disorders and disturbances were reported from several places.

The Egyptian Premier and King Ferouk have protested against Free French Government's action.

12TH NOV.—The British Government's policy regarding the Lebanon crisis was announced which firmly stood by the promise of independence to Lebanon and has sent a protest to General DeGaulle. General Catroux left for Lebanon.

13TH NOV.—The French Delegate-General for Syria and Lebanon has issued a proclamation addressing the Lebanese people saying that he has taken steps to putting the promised independence into practice.

14TH NOV.—It was reported that a shadow Lebanese Government has been formed.

The British Minister in North Africa, Mr. Harold Macmillan, saw General Catroux before he left for the Lebanon.

The French authorities in Algiers in a statement characterize the reports from Lebanon exaggerated and categorically deny some facts reported earlier.

15TH NOV.—Mr. Harold Macmillan, British Minister in North Africa, made further representations to the French Committee of National Liberation regarding Lebanon. The British Minister of State, Mr. R. G. Casey, met General Catroux this morning at Cairo.

The Vichy correspondent of *La Suisse* reported that Marshal Petain was seriously ill.

16TH NOV.—General DeGaulle made a statement on the Lebanon crisis. General Catroux held vital talks with the British and French authorities in Beirut.

Communists have accepted posts in the French Committee of Liberation.

17TH NOV.—General Catroux met Emile Eddie who was appointed Premier of the Lebanon by the French authorities.

Mr. Cordell Hull revealed that the State department has taken up the matter with the French Committee of Liberation in an effort to be helpful.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

11TH NOV.—The Turkish Cabinet, at a meeting lasting over three hours, heard a report from the Foreign Minister M. Numan Menemencijoglu on his talks in Cairo with the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden.

15TH NOV.—King Farouk of Egypt was slightly injured in a motor crash. He was taken to a British military hospital.

17TH NOV.—Mr. DeValera carried the Dail with him last night after a long speech in defence of Eire's foreign policy with special reference to neutrality.

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THE FAR EAST

11TH NOV.—A 10,000-ton Jap merchant vessel was sunk off Kavieng; 67 enemy planes were destroyed. Fresh American reinforcements reached Bougainville.

12TH NOV.—The Allied beachhead at Empress Augusta Bay has been firmly secured.

The Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz made a statement on the Pacific War situation.

13TH NOV.—Fifteen Japanese warships have been hit by Allied planes in a new raid on Rabaul.

Enemy bombers raided American installations at Funafute in the Ellice Islands. The Japanese raided Darwin twice and caused minor damage. United States Liberators bombed Sourabaya, Dutch East Indies.

The United States Navy Secretary, Colonel Knox at a press conference labelled as "ridiculous, fantastic and incredible" Japanese reports that they have destroyed Admiral Halsey's entire fleet in the Pacific.

Chinese troops hitting back at the Japanese on both the Yangtse and Salween river fronts have recaptured a number of townships from the enemies.

15TH NOV.—Allied bombers dropped 223 tons of bombs on Alexishafen and Madang and raided Rabaul, Gasmata, Buka and Buin.

16TH NOV.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester has been appointed the Governor-General of Australia.

President Quezon, the former President of the Philippines, said that he had learned on good authority that General MacArthur would soon have sufficient men and materials available for an attempt to reconquer the Philippines.

17TH NOV.—United States bombers raided Hongkong on Monday.

A Chinese Mission is proceeding to London and will pass through Calcutta this week.

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